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IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 27-45 and 46-53.

Add new claims 54-63 as follows:

1-53. (canceled)

54. (new): A motorized card reader module comprising:

a throat portion for receiving cards;

a housing portion for containing a card read head;

a shutter arm movable from a closed position to an open position to allow a card to pass from the throat portion to the housing portion; and

a sweeping arm movable from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect any non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion;

the sweeping arm including a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion.

55. (new): A module according to claim 54, wherein the hook portion includes a cutting mechanism for cutting a non-card obstruction in the throat portion.

56. (new): A module according to claim 55, further comprising a first sensor for detecting when the sweeping arm is moved to the one side of the throat portion.

57. (new): A module according to claim 56, further comprising a second sensor for detecting when the sweeping arm is moved to the opposite side of the throat portion.

58. (new): A module according to claim 56, wherein the first sensor is located to detect if the cutting mechanism is damaged.

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59. (new): A module according to claim 54, further comprising a resilient bias for biasing the hook portion so that the hook portion remains in contact with a card when the hook portion is deflected by the card.

60. (new): A self-service terminal comprising:
a fascia defining a card entry/exit slot; and
a motorized card reader module in registration with the card entry/exit slot and including (i) a throat portion for receiving cards, (ii) a housing portion for containing a card read head, (iii) a shutter arm movable from a closed position to an open position to allow a card to pass from the throat portion to the housing portion, and (iv) a sweeping arm movable from one side of the throat portion to an opposite side of the throat portion to detect any non-card obstruction in the throat portion as the sweeping arm traverses a substantially entire width of the throat portion;

the sweeping arm including a hook portion having a recessed area for enabling the hook portion to (i) catch a non-card obstruction, (ii) maintain the caught non-card obstruction within the recessed area, and (iii) drag the caught non-card obstruction to a side of the throat portion when the sweeping arm moves from the one side of the throat portion to the other side of the throat portion.

61. (new): A self-service terminal according to claim 60, further comprising sensor means for (i) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the one side of the card entry/exit slot, and (ii) detecting when the sweeping arm is located at the opposite side of the card entry/exit slot.

62. (new): A method of operating a motorized card reader to remove a non-card obstruction from a throat portion of the reader, the method comprising:

moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion of the card reader to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side;

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catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion of the sweeping arm; and

dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion while maintaining the non-card obstruction within the recessed area so that a card can be inserted into the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction.

63. (new): A method of operating a motorized card reader to detect a non-card obstruction in a throat portion of the reader while a card is present in the throat portion of the reader, the method comprising:

moving a sweeping arm from a first side of the throat portion, beneath a card protruding through the throat portion, to a second side of the throat portion opposite to the first side of the throat portion;

catching a non-card obstruction in a recessed area defined by a hook portion on the sweeping arm; and

dragging the caught non-card obstruction to the second side of the throat portion to allow the protruding card to be transported through the throat portion without being impeded by the non-card obstruction.